## THE STUDY OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE INCLUSION OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AS A SUBJECT IN SECONDARY SCHOOL SYLLABUS

By:

Anis Zainab Pawanteh (2012463852) Nurul Husna Muhamad Sebri (2012470482) Siti Fatimah Ahmad (2012851572) Nor Fatin Syamimi Ezuha (2012456896)

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Bachelor of Laws (Hons)

Universiti Teknologi MARA
Faculty of Law

December 2014

"The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others".

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Praise be to Allah for the completion of this research paper. This paper would like to acknowledge and thank every person whose contributions had led to the completion and success of this study. This research paper has been carried out by a team which consists of the following members; Anis Zainab Pawanteh (group leader), Nurul Husna Muhamad Sebri, Siti Fatimah Ahmad and Nor Fatin Syamimi Ezuha. This study would very much like to thank Mr. Abang Ikhbal Abang Bolhil for his immense guidance and support in conducting this study.

This study would like to thank Datuk Prof. Emeritus Dr. Shad Saleem Faruqi, Bar Council Constitutional Law Committee chairman, Firdaus Binti Husni, Legal Research Associate at Global Movement of Moderates, Mohd Zharif Shafiq Bin Badrul, the headmasters of SMK Seksyen 7 and SMK Seksyen 9, Haji Bahrudin Bin Mustar and Abdul Hakim @ Abdul Hakim B. Samuri for their time and thoughts for the individual interviews. This study would also extend its appreciation to the following schools, SMK Seksyen 7, SMK Seksyen 9 and SMK Kota Kemuning, the students of Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Law for their undivided cooperation in this study. Furthermore this paper would like to thank our family and friends who have contributed to the completion of this study be it by moral and physical support.

## **ABSTRACT**

This research is inspired by the fact that to date, there are a large number of people young and old who do not recognised the supreme law of Malaysia despite living here for their whole lives. Due to that failure of getting to know the Federal Constitution, our people become unaware of their obligations and restrictions that the law has imposed onto them by which they tend to developed a trend of "I don't care, it's not my problem" or "I honestly do not know that such laws were even exist!". This trend is described as an ignorance to the law.

Ignorance to the laws especially to the Federal Constitution will make the people begin to shut their eyes and ears of from the imposition of the laws. The consequence of that attitude will further develop into actions that has the tendency of breaching the content of the written constitution. As a result of the consequence mentioned above, the idea of introducing the Federal Constitution as a subject in secondary school syllabus has being brought up by many statesmans and NGOs in the recent years.

Thus, this research is put forward with the aim of studying the relevance behind the idea. This paper has four chapters which is the introduction, the academic reviews, the findings from the fieldwork conducted and lastly the conclusion. This paper has conducted a survey consisting of secondary school students and teachers and interviews with the principals of targeted shools, lawyers and a few NGOs representatives. This research is vital as it will look into the views and the opinions from many angles as to the idea of making Federal Constitution a secondary school subject.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTii
ABSTRACTiii
TABLE OF CONTENTSiv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION
1.0 BACKGROUND1
1.2 RESEACH PROBLEM
1.3 RESEACH OBJECTIVE5
1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS5
1.5 RESEACH METHODOLOGY6
1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATION7
1.7 SIGNIFICANT OF THE RESEACH8
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW; THE RELEVANCE OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO BE INCLUDED AS A SUBJECT IN SECONDARY SCHOOL SYLLABUS.
2.0 INTRODUCTION9
2.1 FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AS A SUBJECT IN SECONDARY
SCHOOL9
2.2 THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTION11
2.3 THE VIEWS TO PROPOSE THE INCLUSION OF FEDERAL
CONSTITUTION AS A SUBJECT12

2.4 THE VIEWS AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL
CONSTITUTION AS A SUBJECT15
2.5 CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
FEDERAL CONSTITUTION
2.6 EXAMPLES OF COUNTRIES THAT INCLUDE CONSTITUTION AS
SCHOOL SYLLABUS
CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS
3.0 INTRODUCTION
3.1 INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW23
3.1.1 PUBLIC IGNORANCE ABOUT CONSTITUTION23
3.1.2 INSUFFICIENT CONTENT IN OTHER SUBJECTS24
3.1.3 LEARNING CONSTITUTION TO DEVELOP THINKING24
3.1.4 CONSTITUTION AS A SUBJECT IN SECONDARY
SCHOOL25
3.1.5 OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUTION SUBJECT
3.1.6 THE GOVERNMENT PLAYS A ROLE IN REALISING THE IDEA OF THE SUBJECT OF CONSTITUTION
3.1.7 OTHER BODIES WHO SHOULD TAKE PART IN REALISING THE IDEA 27